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CENTER LINE

MONTANA'S HIGHWAYS

Published quarterly for the employees of the Montana Highway Commission, state-wide.

January, 1970

What cooks with the new highway complex?

With the keen interest of any prospective homeowner, Helena headquarters personnel, as well as department employees throughout the state are eager for information concerning the new highway complex to be built in the near future.

Everyone knows the 1969 Legislature appropriated money for land acquisition and design of the complex, and authorized the sale of bonds for construction of the building.

The question arises: what happens next?

Morrison-Maierle of Helena is the architectural firm working on the planning and design of the new building. Ken Morton and Ray Johnson of that firm spent a month interviewing department heads and other employees to determine space, lighting, and other physical requirements, projected on a ten-year basis.

Part of the land has been acquired and negotiations are being conducted for the rest. About 130 acres will be involved, located east of Helena near the Interchange.

A final design for the complex will be presented to the Highway Commission for acceptance when all preliminary studies are completed. This is expected to be in about a year.

In the meantime, no building bonds have been sold due to high interest rates. The State is limited to 5½ percent interest; therefore, sale of bonds depends on the 1971 Legislature raising the interest rates for state building bonds, thus providing the funds for actual building.

After the contract is let construction is expected to take about two years.

Functions to be centered in the new complex include Administrative, Engineering, Construction, Maintenance, Materials, Planning Survey, GVW, Highway Patrol, Shops and State Motor Pool. The only highway facility not on the grounds will be the hangar.

Thus, although headquarters personnel may have stars in their eyes while contemplating their new quarters, they aren't packing yet.

Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer said, "The new building will incorporate the best features of efficiency and economy, while providing room to expand as our operations increase."

Employees get chance to study insurance

With the anniversary date of the MPS Blue Shield insurance policy coming up on February 15, 1970, the Montana Highway Department insurance committee has been reviewing employee suggestions and conducting informational meetings this past month.

Questionnaires were sent all employees in November, inquiring whether they were satisfied with the present policy, or asking what additional coverage they were interested in.

Four meetings were held December 12 in Helena headquarters to discuss possible changes, and to explain fully the present coverage. Also, MPS representatives visited division offices between December 10 and 18.

Ballots will be sent employees in January for voting on any proposed changes. The insurance committee will then negotiate a new policy with MPS.

Members of the insurance committee are Howard Buswell, Don DeVore, Leroy Broughton, and Tom Tobin, from Helena; Sidney Davis, Bozeman; Robert Hunter, Butte; Richard Berg, Great Falls; and Geo. Hammond, Missoula, representative of Associated Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

FROM THE CHIEF

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 East Lyndale Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

I believe I can speak for the entire department when I say it is welcome news to have **Center Line** back in circulation again.

With an organization as large as ours, there is a need for a publication, such as **Center Line,** to keep our people posted on happenings in all districts and divisions.

The success of **Center Line** depends heavily on the efforts of those who have agreed to become correspondents. To these persons I send my very sincere "thank you" for your willingness to perform a service for fellow employees. And to all our people, I ask your fullest cooperation in helping to make **Center Line** an interesting and informative newsletter.

LEWIS M. CHITTIM, P. E.
State Highway Engineer

Service awards given to Lehman Fox and Bob Hudnall

November 24 marked a day of recognition for two long-time engineers in Helena headquarters when they received pins and certificates in a ceremony in the Commission Room.

Lehman B. Fox, materials engineer received his 30-year pin from Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer, and Robert M. Hudnall, assistant preconstruction engineer, received his 25-year pin from Grover Powers, preconstruction engineer.

Fox first worked for the State Highway Commission as a chainman between college sessions in 1934. Two summers later he worked as a rodman. Following graduation from the University of Montana in 1941, he joined the testing division as a field chemist in Kalispell. Later that year he was assigned to the Helena testing division as a field chemist in Kalispell. Later that year he was assigned to the Helena testing lab. By 1943 he had been promoted to field testing supervisor and left to join the Navy. Upon release from the service, he rejoined the highway department as a research supervisor. In 1948 Fox was transfered to the construction division as a research engineer, to supervise the construction of bituminous projects and to train field construction personnel with respect to bituminous construction practices and procedures. In 1949 he was promoted to associate construction engineer (bituminous) and then to assistant construction engineer. In 1953 a new classification of bituminous engineer was added to the classification and wage schedule and Fox was placed in this new classification.

In 1957 Fox was promoted to construction engineer, a position he held until July, 1965, when he was reassigned to materials engineer, the position he now holds.

In September of 1944, Robert Hudnall joined the highway department as a rodman on a location survey crew at Colstrip. In May, 1946 he became acting instrumentman and in 1947 he rose to instrumentman, at Forsyth. He was promoted to project engineer in March, 1948, which position he held until August 1, 1949, when he resigned to accept another position. He rejoined the Highway Department March 16, 1950 as Project engineer in Broadus.

In April of 1956, Hudnall was transferred to the Helena headquarters plans department as a detailer. Later that year he was promoted to designer, and by August of 1958 had advanced to designer III. In 1967 Bob was named assistant road design engineer. The next year he was promoted again, this time to special assignment engineer, and then transferred from program control to preconstruction division, where he became assistant preconstruction engineer.

Lehman B. Fox

Robert M. Hudnall

CENTER LINE
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STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

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Division Correspondents

Billings	James Young
Bozeman	Barbara McGuire
Butte	Judy Combo
Glendive	Carole Ritz
Great Falls	Pat Bristol
Havre	Pat Henderson
Helena	Bev Gibson
Lewistown	Bea Knerr
Miles City	Jean Sweeney
Missoula	Clara Neely
Wolf Point	Ollie Hauge

News items of interest to Highway Department employees are invited. They should be given to the correspondents listed above.

B. P. R. praises Billings

In a recent memo from GRANT E. MEYER, division engineer, B.P.R., the Billings and Miles City divisions were complimented after the audit of construction costs and procedures.

The audit consisted of better than twelve million dollars worth of participating construction costs that were incurred during the period.

"The diligent work and effort by your headquarters, construction and field personnel in complying with established procedures, etc., has been most rewarding and we would like to compliment you and your staff in this endeavor."

—James Young, Billings

Commission approves continuing education

The Montana Highway Commission at their November meeting approved a plan for continuing education for graduate engineers which will provide an opportunity to work toward advanced degrees. The Highway Commission will pay the entire cost of the course upon successful completion.

The program was instigated by the Montana Society of Engineers' education committee, sparked by Dr. Glen Martin of the civil engineering department at Montana State University.

The course will be taught by instructors from MSU, in evening classes one night a week, beginning in January. The course will be based on a quarter credit basis.

Students will work for one of three goals: an advanced degree, a certificate of advanced study, or as fill-in courses of special interest. Some seminars will be included in the curriculum.

The first course will stress new advances in the field of civil engineering. Areas of study will include math, computer techniques, and mechanics.

Great interest has been shown by highway department engineers. The class requires 20 or more students, some of whom may be engineers for other firms or agencies.

Persons interested in the course may contact Gene Stettler, construction engineer, who is in charge of the program for the highway department.

Seminars on property surveys held

Ira Tillotson will be conducting seminars in the field divisions during January and February, 1970. A preliminary seminar is scheduled in Helena in the auditorium from January 5 through 7 for the purpose of giving direction to the following field seminars.

This is your opportunity to express your opinions and knowledge so that the results will benefit your work in the way you want.

An old timer is a fellow who remembers when he could buy a pound of steak for a dime, but forgets he had to work an hour to earn the dime.

Electronic scale is located at Lolo - - - - - - -

Top photograph shows the new scale house at Lolo, about 7 miles south of Missoula. Some features worth noting: full length windows; intensified lighting design for night operation; an extra escape door is incorporated in the design of the building for operator safety; installation of wooden barricades; drainage troughs to carry off snow and slush.

Bottom photograph shows Bob Blewett, former highway patrolman, now working for our GVW department. Bob is the scaleman in attendance here. He stands in front of a brand new electronic scale—the first of its kind we have had installed.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - - - - - - -

Helena headquarters personnel attended a gala Christmas party Friday night, December 12 at Jorgenson's Holiday Inn. DON WILLIAMS, of planning survey section, and his orchestra provided music for dancing

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MEMORABLE MOMENTS — IN 1969

Road work progressed over the state. Some photogenic examples: Far left — Helena-Townsend road ready for striping; center — Ulm-Gore Hill gets cement stabilized base; right — the Cardwell-Milligan Canyon grading job appears almost oriental in its present stages.

In early November, 7.9 miles of Interstate were dedicated at Glendive. Inset shows Joseph Nass, chairman of the Montana Highway Commission giving his dedication address. Bottom picture shows some of the dignitaries assembled for the occasion. John Cross, of Glendive, chairman of the board of institutions, was principal speaker.

The new Butte highway complex, along with the Butte-east interchange was dedicated jointly early in August, last year. Master of ceremonies for both events, was Rod Cooney of Butte, member of the state highway commission.

The annual road awards dinner was held in Helena. Winners in new construction were Great Falls, Wolf Point and Missoula. In the maintenance section, first, second and third went to Butte district for Bozeman division, Kalispell [illegible]on and Mi[illegible]y. Lower photo shows Dr. Glen M[illegible] one of t[illegible]ges, giving his version of the judg[illegible] performanc[illegible]set at top shows Bud McGiffin receiving the Great Falls award for Ben Briscoe.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Helena—Hdq.

Promotions or changes

DON R. SMAIL — assistant state highway engineer, operations to speeial assignments, engineering and maintenanee

DON B. DeVORE — projeet eontrol engineer to assistant state highway engineer, operations

DON R. SMAIL

DON B. DeVORE

RAYMOND G. ANDERSON — chief auditor to project control direetor

LOUIS B. CLIFT — aeeountant III to ehief auditor

NEIL C. SULLIVAN — area engineer to urban engineer

JAMES K. THOMAS — R/W agent II to distriet R/W supervisor

GERALD L. ANDERS — area engineer to consultant design engineer

EUGENE H. LARSON — designer III to area engineer

ROBERT C. BREEDEN — projeet control eoordinator trainee to projeet control eoordinator I

AUDREY BRIDGES—aeeounting, from elerk III to elerk IV

AGNES CARR—accounting, from seeretary I to Clerk IV

HAZEN FLICKINGER — bridge, from designer III to assistant bridge engineer

KENNETH CHREST—preeonstruetion, from detailer I to landseape designer I

THOMAS STEVENS—preconstruetion, from draftsman III to detailer I

JOSEPH KINTLI—right-of-way, from aeeountant I to aeeountant II

GARY GREER—traffie, from draftsman I to draftsman II

RUDOLPH GOETZ—planning survey, from elerk III to traffie recorder I

JERRY SMITH—Butte division engineering aide I, to Helena, data proeessing, data proeessor I

ROSS HENRY—projeet eontrol, project control analyst, to eonstruetion, specifieations engineer

CLYDE MAYER—aeeounting, aeeountant II, to motor pool seetion

THOMAS ROSSETO—engineer in training, from hydraulies to bridge

DONALD LOVELY—engineer in training, from preeonstruetion to data proeessing

STANLEY MILLER—engineer in training, from preeonstruetion to bridge

FLORENCE BUZZAS—R/W, from clerk-typist II to steno I

PALMA GIBBS—aeeounting, from clerk III to elerk IV

MARVIN L. NELSON—from R/W agent II, Billings, to R/W plans and programs supervisor, Helena

VICTOR STIPCICH — maintenanee man II to maintenanee man V, Helena Shop

—Bev Gibson, Helena

Miles City

Miles City held its annual Christmast party Deeember 12, 1969, at the Eagles' ballroom with 75 highway personnel attending.

There is much happiness in the home of MR. and MRS. LARRY NELSON with the arrival of a new daughter, a month old. They have named her PEGGY JO. She joins a three-year old brother, PAUL JAMES. LARRY is lab technician.

Former instrumentman EARL KELLY in the Miles City division, who is now one of Miles City's sueeessful business men, eontinues to "paek them in." His new establishment is "Kelly's Gaslight".

BABE MICKUS, chairman of the 1970 Highway Bowling Tournament began working on plans for the big event in April, 1969 (right after the 1968 tournament). He started seleeting eommittees even before he beeame Chairman on his way home from the 1968 tournament..

THOMAS MAXWELL, engineering aide I in the Miles City Division, was married August 9, 1969 to LINDA MINCOFF of Miles City in the Saered Heart Chureh at Miles City, Montana.

MR. and MRS. RON MYRVIK are the parents of a brand new baby girl born Deeember 4, 1969, in a Miles City hospital. She weighted in at 7 lbs. and 8 ounces and has been named DENISE. Her 4-year old sister, DAWN, is pretty exeited. RON is maintenanee clerk in the office.

—Jean Sweeney, Miles City

Missoula

LOIS and HERB BAKER and DICK and GEORGIA EVERETT have just returned from a three-week tour of the Hawaiian Islands.

CLIFF and LENA THOMPSON have parked their mobile home for the winter and are presently living in an apartment in Missoula.

DONALD BOWEN has just been promoted from engineering aide II to rodman, and LEONARD BRAY has been promoted from engineering aide I to engineering aide II.

DANA IRWIN, resident engineer I, resigned effeetive Deeember 2, 1969, after having been with the Department for fifteen years. DANA'S health has not been good for the past year.

Transfers

GENE W. DALY has transferred from the Lolo seetion to the Missoula headquarters.

JAMES BELL, Hot Springs to Missoula; JAMES CYR, Saltese to Missoula; MICHAEL FRIEDRICH, Drummond to Missoula; RALPH HILL, Drummond to Missoula; DEAN KLAKKEN, Saltese to Missoula; STEPHEN MILLER, Saltese to Missoula; K. ANDY POWELL, Drummond to Missoula, and RICHARD PRICE, Drummond to Missoula.

The annual Christmas party sponsored by Loeal 1199 was held in the Eagles Hall in Missoula on Deeember 6, 1969. A total of sixty-seven persons was on hand for the dinner and daneing.

A retirement party for LEONARD LeROUX is scheduled to be held in the Eagles Hall on Deeember 13, 1969. Leonard is retiring on Deeember 31, 1969—Clara Neeley, Missoula

Billings

Transfers and resignations:

A large party of friends attended a farewell party at the Holiday Inn,

cast of Billings, for MARVIN and RoANN NELSON. MARV will be plans and programs supervisor in the right-of-way department.

MRS. DORIS JOHNSON, clerk typist II, has resigned. She plans to spend her time as a housewife and to raise a family.

New hires

MRS. HELEN GRAHAM will replace DORIS JOHNSON as a clerk in the Billings division office.

Helen Graham

DAVE KEEHN, new mechanic, Billings garage. DAVE is married and has a family.

HILMER CARLSON, new right-of-way agent. HILMER is married, has four children, said proudly, "I'm also a grandpa."

Transfers

CLARENCE WALTH, right-of-way office co-ordinator, CLARENCE transferred from Butte, is married and has a daughter.

Three retire

A retirement party was held at the Lake Hills Golf Club for KENNETH McCRACKEN, HELMER HUGELEN, and MICHAEL BEDE. K. O. McCRACKEN has had 36 years service, HELMER HUGELEN has had 27 years service and MICHAEL BEDE has had 24 years service. The loss of these men will be felt by the department. —James Young, Billings

Glendive

There is a new voice heard in the Glendive Division due to the resignation of JANICE RIKUSTAD. CAROLE L. RITZ took over duties August 4, 1969.

MARVIN HARTZE, Instrumentman, and wife, VIRGINIA, are the proud parents of a new baby boy who has been named, CORY DEAN.

MARTY PAULSON, Eng. Aide I, while trying to play Bronson, fell off his motorcycle and broke his arm.

The department was saddened when it learned of the death of WILLIAM DEFFERDING, who passed away at Baker, September 1, 1969, three days before his 62nd birthday.

Due to the death of WILLIAM DEFFERDING, WILLIAM BOHLE was promoted to sectionman in the Baker area.

With the retirement of PHILL DATTA, LEONARD JOHNSON transferred from Savage to Wibaux.

—Carol Ritz, Glendive

Bozeman

We grew a poem,
in any event!

Though the CENTERLINE EDITION is most intriguing
We seem to find ourselves reneging:
We've plenty of news and many tall tales
But it's all been published in BOZEMAN TRAILS.

—Barbara McGuire, Bozeman

Butte

FRED PATTERSON of Divide, and JOE BOYLE of Butte, both recently retired from the maintenance forces in the Butte division.

JOHN COLVIN who is employed as a mechanic in the Butte shop, was recently married to HELEN DYE.

The Montana Association of Highway Employees, Local Chapter number 1 in Butte, is holding a meeting in Butte on December 19 for the purpose of establishing a Credit Union for the benefit of all state employees in the Butte area.

New Hires

KEN WELDON started work on August 19 as the shop parts man. BARBARA PADDOCK and TED SELON both joined the forces of the office. BARBARA on September 2 and TED on June 16. VINCE DOWNING reported to the Butte lab on June 2, and WILLIAM MALONEY was hired as a maintenance man for work in the Divide area.

—Judy Combo, Butte

Havre

The retirement of HARRY O. HALLINGSTAD, of Sunburst, Montana became effective November 13, 1969. MR. HALLINGSTAD was maintenance supervisor I in the Sunburst sec-

GARY GILLIES, maintenance man 1 of Havre has returned to the employment of the State Highway Department effective December 3rd.

A position of clerk-typist 2 has been created in the Havre office and has been filled by VIRGINIA PASMA.

HUGH V. LARSON, maintenance man II stationed at Havre has received his 5-year pin. Also receiving a pin was KARL F. LINDGREN of Harlem plus a certificate for 20 years of service with the Montana Highway Commission.

—Edna Hess, Havre

Great Falls

A welcome addition to the Great Falls office staff is CONNIE PATTERSON, clerk-typist II.

The Great Falls office also boasts a new office manager. ED MANS, formerly office manager at Wolf Point.

Newest addition to the Great Falls R/W department is GARY MERCER, assistant R/W agent.

Great Falls district's answer to the radio repair problem is 26-year-old KEN ANDERSON, now our district radio engineer.

A retirement party was held November 7th for JOHN MURRILL, retiring Great Falls office manager.

The annual Great Falls Christmas party, held December 13th, was a smashing success. Service awards were presented by BUD McGIFFIN and RAY WILEY.

—Pat Bristol, Great Falls.

Lewistown

In the retirement category, we have CHARLES BENJAMIN, shop foreman who retired in June; ROGER DUNCAN, mtce. man, retired in August and RICHARD STODDARD, office manager who has retired.

BILL KLINDT, mtce. man in the Winnett area is in the Billings hospital for minor surgery.

JAKE LIEBELT, rodman in Lewistown underwent minor surgery last month and is back in the swing again.

KEITH LEWIS, instrumentman in Lewistown was killed recently in a freak car accident.

RICHARD TOBEL, bridge engineer was transferred to the Helena Bridge Department.

DALE DEVORE, bridge engineer from the Billings area will take over where DICK left off. DALE is following in his Uncle Don's foot steps of a few years back.

BILLIE FURNISH, sr. clerk, was promoted to office manager early this year to fill DICK STODDARD'S position, upon his retirement.

LeROY ELLIS, clerk 5 was reclassified and moved up to Sr. Clerk to assist with the office work in a larger capacity than before.

MR. and MRS. ARCHIE STANTON celebrated their 25th anniversary on November 8, 1969 with an open house held at the Eagles Club.

The Lewistown division staged their Xmas party on Dec. 20, at the Bar Nineteen.

—Bea Knerr, Lewistown

Wolf Point

MR. and MRS. JOE CHRISTENSEN, of Plentywood, Montana, announce the arrival of a new grandson on December 9. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 4 oz., and is the son of MR. and MRS. RODNEY ARNOLD, nee RENEE CHRISTENSEN, youngest daughter of JOE and LEE'S.

Wedding bells are ringing today for RONALD UELAND, instrumentman from JIM BALDWIN's crew at Culbertson. This must be a contagious disease as the same bells caught up with WAYNE LIEN, eng. aide I and POLLY BRAATEN, daughter of BUD BRAATEN, our div. lab supervisor. WAYNE is also from JIMS' crew.

VIRGINIA SCHUETZE, clerk III enjoyed a vacation trip to the Bahamas; our div. mtce. supr., BILL BLAKE and his wife spent some time in Oregon and points along the coast; OLLIE HAUGE visited her daughter and son-in-law in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and DUANE NOVAKOVICH, res. engr. I is trying to vacation but gets called back to duty. MIKE KELLY, res. engr. II went to the Camelia Bowl game.

The GUNWALD BRENDEN family has moved to Wolf Point from Bozeman and MR. BRENDEN has joined our office staff as Office Manager. He replaces ED MANS.

MR. FLEMMING and MR. HARADA attended a meeting at the local high school recently to which all interested young people had been invited. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the different occupations and to give them a chance to ask questions.

—Ollie Hauge, Wolf Point

Kalispell

HARRY WAYLETT, WILLIAM SANDEN, FRANK HOLT and TED MANN are among the old timers now benefiting from the new retirement program. TED'S retirement was hastened by illness. Others reporting for sick call were LESTER MAAS, AL SEELYE and DON DECKER. The entire block of them experienced the skill of surgeon's scalpel.

VIC BAKER loaded his family for a sojourn to Oklahoma; LINDA MILLER and spouse headed for Iowa; BILL SANDS and family to Minnesota; JOHN WRIGHT returns to his parents' home in North Dakota.

JOHN KALIEN and his wife YVONNE left for their honeymoon in Texas.

MARSHALL BEATTY and family went after Gooey Ducks in Portland.

JACK SEELYE had a housewarming party recently, as did JIM KEITHLEY.

WAYNE GRYDE'S wife has knitted a set of booties for WAYNE'S golf clubs that will be set aside for the winter months. NORM NELSON'S wife also knitted booties but for an entirely different purpose. Joining the bootie brigade was RICHARD GOVE with a new baby girl and JERRY HANSON with a son.

NICKOLAS HANSEN took the initial step in joining the club by middle-aisling it recently; then transferred from soils lab to the maintenance section at Summit.

The party sent out to Perma returned from the reservation pulling the travois with BILL MUNSINGER and GUS STROBE.

Newcomers to the Excedrine No. 15 club as section heads are young PETE SPURZEM, ROGER GIANIERE, BOB McKENZIE and CHARLES NOBLE.

ERNIE JOHNSON moved closer to the home corral by taking over the Crystal Creek section. ROGER MICHELS drifted down the Kootenai from Warland and reported that ARNIE MOHL is alive and well and heading from Warland to the division wickiup for further assignment during the winter months while the Libby Dam is hibernating.

The division Christmas party was held December 12th at the new Elks building. (News compiled and written by ROBERT FINLEY).

—PAT HENDERSON
Kalispell Division

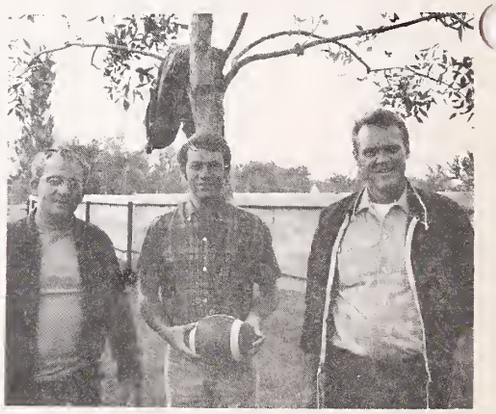
Employees use spare time to help kids

Coach Larry Walks, has had another good year with Little Guy Football.

Larry Walks, instrumentman, Billings, has completed his seventh year as coach for the Little Guys.

With help from Michael Pertile and Stan Krohmer, assistant coaches, Larry's team finished the season with a 6-1-0 record. Six wins, with one loss, was better than last year's team record of 5-1-1. However, "That tie last year cost us the championship", commented coach Walks.

Little Guy players are from 11 to 13 years old in the "A", "B" and "C" class. Walks has coached all divisions for the city.



L./r: Arnie Weiss; Mitch Pertile, assistant coach; and Larry Walks. Stan Krohmer, not shown.

Other department employees helping were: Armen Weiss, equipment manager. Arnie's wife served coffee and doughnuts at the games to raise money for the league. Jack Liedle, president of the league, also has been an official at the games.

Interesting to note, Larry's son is only six-years-old: it's really special for a man to help some other fellows boys.

—James Young, Billings

A smart girl knows how to play golf, tennis, the piano and dumb.